

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 AEC-11 ACDA-19 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 H-02 RSR-01

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R 201745 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0553

SECDEF

INFO USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 2992

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81

TAGS: NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: MILITARY COMMITTEE ROLE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION

REF: USNATO 2772

1. MENZIES (CANADA) AT LUNCH JUNE 19 TOLD OTHER PERMREPS THAT GOC HAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH LETTER SYG PROPOSES TO SEND TO MC CHAIRMAN (GENERAL STEINHOFF) ASKING CHAIRMAN TO DEFINE MC' S PROPER ROLE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS. MENZIES COMMENTED THAT LANGUAGE IN LETTER WAS SO BROAD THAT IT COULD ENABLE MC TO CREATE CONSULTATIVE ROLE FOR ITSELF WHICH IT DOES NOT PROPERLY POSSESS. HE SUGGESTED THAT LUNS ADVISE STEINHOFF ORALLY OF NEED TO ADDRESS QUESTION IN MODEST TERMS AND TO LET LATTER KNOW THAT SOME NATIONAL CAPITALS STRONGLY PREFER TO RECEIVE CONSOLIDATED POLITICAL- MILITARY POSITION FROM NATO HEADQUARTERS IN TIME OF CRISIS WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE EMPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. TO ILLUSTRATE, MENZIES RECALLED THAT DURING LAST WINTEX IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS OF A DPC/ NAC MEETING, GENERAL STEINHOFF HAD CALLED MC MEETING. AS A RESULT,
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OTTAWA RECEIVED TWO QUITE DIFFERENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

A) A CONSOLIDATED POLITICAL RECOMMENDATION TO WHICH MENZIES HAD AGREED IN DPC/ NAC; AND B) A CONSOLIDATED MILITARY RECOMMENDATION TO WHICH CANADIAN MEMBER OF MC HAD AGREED. CANADIAN

PRIME MINISTER DID NOT LIKE BEING CONFRONTED WITH TWO DIFFERENT
AND SUPPOSEDLY CONSOLIDATED NATO POSITIONS.

3. MENZIES RECEIVED NO SUPPORT. CHORAFAS (GREECE) DISAGREED
AND URGED IMPORTANCE OF GIVING FULL ATTENTION TO MILITARY
VIEWS DURING EVERY PHASE OF NUCLEAR CONSULTATIONS. BELGIAN
AND UK PERMREPS ALSO URGED THAT SYG'S LETTER BE ALLOWED TO
GO FORWARD TO GENERAL STEINHOFF. THEY ARGUED THAT POLITICAL
AUTHORITIES IN CAPITALS SHOULD HAVE FULL BENEFIT OF PROFESSIONAL
MILITARY VIEWS BEFORE ULTIMATE POLITICAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO02992
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730634/abqceamq.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 2772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY COMMITTEE ROLE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION
TAGS: NATO, PFOR
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005